

COINS

New process may save bucks for Uncle Sam

By Roger Boye

More questions from Tribune readers are answered this week.

Q—Will Uncle Sam begin using a new type of paper to make \$1 bills? If so, will the money now in circulation become valuable as a collectible?—R.C., Elgin

A—Treasury chiefs don't plan to change the paper. But if Congress approves, they will use a cheaper process in printing the back sides of \$1 bills. The new Federal Reserve notes would look identical to those now made because the color and design would not change.

Q—While going through the personal articles of a relative who died, I found

a dirty coin that looks like a 1787 Brasher doubloon. How can I find out if it's real? Also, is a \$1 bill that is yellow on the back side worth anything to a collector?—B.H., Lake Zurich

A—Only seven authentic Brasher doubloons are known to exist; the fakes number in the thousands. Have a dealer or other expert carefully examine the design on your piece.

The green ink used on the back side of currency is a combination of blue and yellow. Some soaps and other alkali solutions can destroy the blue ink, changing the green to yellow. Your bill has no special value.

Q—What's the rarest United States coin made during the last 10 years. Do you think I'll ever get one in change?—T.J., Merrillville, Ind.

A—Dealers charge about \$100 for a 1973-S silver-clad Eisenhower dollar in proof. Your chances of finding the coin in circulation are about nil since the government put all the dollars in special holders and sold them to collectors for \$10 each during 1973.